

## **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

I have reviewed the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed activities documented in the Permit Renewal for the Burmah Allotment Environmental Assessment No. ID-230-2008-EA-85. I have also reviewed the project record for this analysis and the effects of the proposed action and alternatives as disclosed in the Alternatives and Environmental Impacts sections of the EA. Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in the 1976 Bennett Hills-Timmerman Hills MFP as modified by the 1979 Record of Decision for the Shoshone Grazing EIS and Proposed/Final Grazing Decision dated September 11, 1980. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described:

**(a) Context.** This requirement means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. For instance, in the case of a site-specific action, significance would usually depend upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Both short- and long-term effects are relevant (40 CFR 1508.27):

The disclosure of effects in the EA found the actions limited in context. The planning area is limited in size and the activities limited in potential. Effects are local in nature and are not likely to significantly affect regional or national resources.

**(b) Intensity.** This requirement refers to the severity of impact. Responsible officials must bear in mind that more than one agency may make decisions about partial aspects of a major action. The following are considered in evaluating intensity (40 CFR 1508.27).

*1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.*

Impacts associated with the livestock grazing permit renewal are discussed in the Environmental Impacts section of the EA.

The proposed action is anticipated to have limited impacts to range conditions which will improve conditions and aid this allotment in meeting Standards for Rangeland Health in the future.

*2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.*

The proposed activities will not significantly affect public health or safety. The purpose of the proposed action is to allow for livestock grazing while improving conditions to continue to meet Standards for Rangeland Health in the allotment. Similar actions have not significantly affected public health or safety.

3. *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

There are no unique historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farm lands, wild and scenic rivers, wetlands, Wilderness Study Areas, or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within the allotment.

4. *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

None of the impacts are expected to be highly controversial, since the impacts are predominantly beneficial.

5. *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

The possible effects on the human environment are not highly uncertain nor do they involve unique or uncertain risks. The technical analyses conducted for determinations of the impacts to the resources are supportable with use of accepted techniques, reliable data, and professional judgment. Impacts are within the limits that are considered thresholds of concern. Therefore, I conclude that there are no highly uncertain, unique, or unknown risks.

6. *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

Neither the Proposed Action, nor any of the alternatives sets precedent or represent a decision in principle about a future management consideration.

7. *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

The EA analyzes all connected, cumulative, and similar actions within the scope of the analysis. The cumulative effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions are considered and disclosed in the EA, Environmental Impacts section. The cumulative effects are not significant.

8. *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.*

The proposed action is not considered to adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is also not considered to cause loss or destruction of significant, cultural, or historical resources.

9. *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.* There are no known populations, nor the potential habitat, for any Threatened or Endangered Species within the Burmah Allotment.

10. *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.*

The actions in this Environmental Assessment No. ID-230-2008-EA-85 do not threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or any requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

Based upon the review of the test for significance and the environmental analyses conducted, I have determined that the actions analyzed in the Permit Renewal for the Burmah Allotment Environmental Assessment No. ID-230-2008-EA-85 do not constitute a major federal action and that its implementation will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, I have determined that an Environmental Impact Statement need not be prepared.